

Amendments to the Claims

Please amend Claims 1, 17, 25 and 29 to read as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) An integrated orthopedic bandage system comprising:
 - a) a water-curable orthopedic casting material, which is in the form of a splint and has both length and width dimensions, with the length dimension being longer than the width dimension; and
 - b) a container including water which is removable from said container, said container having substantially the same length dimension as that of said casting material.
2. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1 wherein said container includes water-laden gel containing the water and is in fluid communication with said orthopedic casting material.
3. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1 wherein said casting material is in a flat arrangement.

4. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1 wherein said container is provided with opening means operable to permit the release of the water therefrom into contact with said orthopedic casting material.

5. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 4 wherein said container comprises a rupturable flat long pouch and the opening means is a string which extends along said container so that when pulled the string ruptures said container to expose the gel contained in said container to said casting material.

6. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1 wherein said orthopedic casting material is protected with a protective sleeve.

7. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 6 wherein said container is anchored to said sleeve.

8. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 7 wherein there is some degree of adhesion of said container to said casting material.

9. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 6 wherein said protective sleeve is water-resistant.

10. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 9 wherein said protective sleeve is contained within a padding sleeve.

11. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1 further comprising an outer package which encloses said water-curable orthopedic casting material and said container.

12. (Original) The system of claim 2 wherein the gel comprises a member selected from the group consisting of hydroxymethyl cellulose, hydroxypropyl cellulose, acrylates, polyglycols, and propylene glycol.

13. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1 wherein said orthopedic casting material comprises fiberglass, or weaved synthetic fabric.

14. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 13 wherein said orthopedic casting material includes a water-curable resin.

15. (Original) The system of claim 14 wherein the water-curable resin is polyurethane.

16. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 12 wherein there is present in the gel a material selected from the group consisting of hardeners and accelerators.

17. (Currently Amended) A method for curing a water-curable orthopedic casting material, which is in the form of a splint and has both length and width dimensions, with the length dimension being longer than the width dimension, the method comprising applying to an orthopedic material to be cured, an effective amount of water, wherein the orthopedic casting material and the water are present in a package wherein the water is provided in a container from which it is removable into fluid communication with the casting material whereby when the water is removed from the container, the water directly contacts the casting material substantially along the entire length dimension of the casting material.

18. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17 wherein the water is in the form of a water-laden gel.

Claim 19. (Canceled).

20. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 18 wherein the gel comprises a member selected from the group consisting of hydroxymethyl cellulose, hydroxypropyl cellulose, acrylates, polyglycols, and propylene glycol.

Claims 21-24 (Canceled).

25. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 17, wherein the container comprises a rupturable flat long pouch and said applying step comprises manipulating a string which extends along the surface of the gel container or is located inside the container in the longitudinal direction of the container so that when pulled it ruptures the container to expose the water contained in the container to the casting material.

26. (Original) The method of claim 17 wherein the orthopedic casting material is protected with a protective sleeve.

Claims 27 and 28 (Canceled).

29. (Currently Amended) An integrated orthopedic bandage system comprising:

a) a water-curable orthopedic casting material, which is in the form of a splint;

b) a container including water which is removable from said container and having longitudinal and transverse dimensions with the longitudinal dimension being larger than the transverse direction; and

c) opening means for opening said container, said opening means positioned relative to said container so that when pulled said opening means ruptures said container substantially along its longitudinal dimension to expose the water contained in said container to said casting material.

30. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 29 wherein said opening means comprises a string extending substantially along the longitudinal dimension of said container.

31. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 29 wherein said container includes water-laden gel containing the water and is in fluid communication with said orthopedic casting material.

32. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 29 wherein said casting material is in a flat arrangement.

33. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 29 wherein said orthopedic casting material is protected with a protective sleeve.

34. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 33 wherein said container is anchored to said sleeve.

35. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 34 wherein there is some degree of adhesion of said container to said casting material.

36. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 31 wherein the gel comprises a member selected from the group consisting of hydroxymethyl cellulose, hydroxypropyl cellulose, acrylates, polyglycols, and propylene glycol.

37. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 31 wherein there is present in the gel a material selected from the group consisting of hardeners and accelerators.